

What to do if You Believe You Are Being Stalked

- ✓ Call the police department where you live, where you work or where the incident occurred.
- ✓ File a police report for each incident and maintain a notation of files, indicating the date/time of the incident, the report number and investigating office. Always get an officer's name and badge number, and try to contact the same officer with each incident.
- ✓ If you know the identity of the stalker, request information regarding a restraining order.
- ✓ Keep a journal of everything that occurs, with dates, places and times of events. This will be useful in the prosecution of the stalker. Record the license plate numbers of any suspicious vehicles, plus a description of the vehicles. Also, record descriptions of suspicious people.
- ✓ Use rubber gloves or put plastic bags on your hands to collect evidence for the police department if they are unable to send an officer at that moment. This will prevent smudging the stalker's fingerprints. Put the evidence in a plastic bag or a paper bag, according to police department instructions.
- ✓ Tell your employer about your situation so he or she can tell Security to be on the alert, and so your employer will be prepared in case you need to take time off from work to attend to legal matters after the stalker is apprehended.
- ✓ Be persistent in following up on your case, and be sure to ask questions.
- ✓ In cases of e-mail or fax machine stalking, print all messages and keep copies. Report electronic stalking to local police, with copies of e-mails or faxes.

Helpful Numbers to Keep On Hand

④ 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline (confidential, bilingual, TDD-accessible)	1-800-572-SAFE (1-800-572-7233)
④ NJ Coalition for Battered Women (confidential, bilingual, TDD-accessible)	(609) 584-8107 www.njcbw.org
④ 24-Hour NJ Coalition Against Sexual Assault Hotline (confidential, bilingual, TDD-accessible)	1-800-601-7200 www.njcasa.org
④ Division on Women, Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women, and Rape Care Program	(609) 292-8840 TTY (609) 777-0799 www.nj.gov/dca/dow

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



Facts on Stalking in New Jersey

**Information for
Stalking Victims
and
Law Enforcement**

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
Division on Women
Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women
101 South Broad Street
PO Box 801
Trenton, NJ 08625-0801
(609) 292-8840 ■ TTY (609) 777-0799
www.nj.gov/dca/dow

Greetings from Commissioner Levin

Over the years, laws against stalking have become more and more stringent. In the U.S., New Jersey has some of the toughest laws against stalking and some of the best legislation to protect victims.

If you are being stalked, you should be well aware of the laws that protect you and what to do. This brochure outlines the basics of New Jersey's stalking law, tips on what to do if you think you are being stalked and precautionary measures you can take to protect yourself from your stalker.

Please take the time to review this important information for your own safety and well being.

Very truly yours,



Susan Bass Levin
Commissioner

Precautionary Measures and Safety Tips if You Are Being Stalked

- ✓ Stay alert and aware at all times
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with your surroundings so you are aware of any changes or suspicious occurrences
- ✓ Always walk or travel with someone, especially at night
- ✓ Have your keys ready when approaching your car or home
- ✓ Know where the local police department is located
- ✓ Memorize the police department phone number
- ✓ Change your daily routine - take different routes to and from work, for example:
 - Vary your time schedule
 - Wear comfortable shoes when traveling
 - Always lock all doors and windows in your residence
 - Use timers in your residence to turn lights on and off at varying times and locations

S T A L K I N G **The Law in New Jersey**

A person may be guilty of stalking in New Jersey if he/she purposefully engages in an action directed at a specific person that seeks to cause harm to that individual or a member of his/her family, or knowingly places a person in fear of harm or death to himself/herself or an immediate member of his/her family.

A person may be charged with stalking if that person:

- Purposely and repeatedly maintains a visual or physical proximity to a person or conveys verbal, written, electronic or otherwise communicated threats toward the victim or victim's family (and)
- Engages in conduct which alarms or annoys the victim or members of the victim's family and occurs on two or more occasions:
 - Sending anonymous letters or other mailings
 - Making persistent phone calls with or without messages
 - Using electronic sources, such as e-mail, Internet or fax
 - Threatening the safety of the victim or members of his/her family so as to annoy or place the victim (or members of his/her family) in reasonable fear of at least bodily injury

The stalker may be someone you know (a spouse, former spouse, friend, co-worker, acquaintance), someone you once had a relationship with, or a complete stranger. Stalking does not have to be sexual in nature. Stalkers direct their attention at a specific person or at that person's family or friends.

What to do When You Are Receiving Annoying or Threatening Phone Calls

- Keep a record of the time and date you received the call, and what message you received.
- Put a trace on the phone call as soon as the caller hangs up. From a touch-tone phone dial *57; from a rotary or pulse-dialing phone, dial 1157. After you hear a beep, an operator will give you a recorded message of what to do. The phone company will keep this record and release it only to the police or the prosecutor. Inform other members of the household to trace and record phone calls as well. Be aware that a \$1.00 charge for each trace will appear on your phone bill.
- Contact the police officer assigned to your case and tell him or her the date and time of the traced phone calls, plus what the caller said or did. File a police report as soon as possible.